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12 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : House Committee on Appropriations
Report on Safeguard Antiballistic
Missile System

1. This report, released to the public on 11 June 1969, provides the unclassified account of the testimony of Secretary Laird given before Mr. Mahon on 22 May 1969. Under pushing from Mr. Minshall, who observed that "it will be a better hearing and report the more we can release to the public," Mr. Laird said, "We will go as far as we possibly can within the limits of security."

2. In the section of the Secretary's statement, on "Analysis of the Threat," a great deal of information that has heretofore been considered classified is published. To cite a few examples:

--"The Soviets now have more than 230 of these missiles operational or under construction." (A reference to the SS-9)

--"Eight or nine Y-class submarines have already been launched and several are believed to be operational."

3. The following paragraph from page 13 of the statement selectively reproduces, with little paraphrase, sentences from paragraphs 42, 43, and 45 on SNIE 13-8-69, dated 27 February 1969 (TSRU, NFD):

"Thus, assuming that test vehicles are available, which we as yet have no way of knowing, flight testing of an ICBM could begin sometime this year. At least 3 years would

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then be required to achieve an initial operational capability (IOC), i.e., sometime in late 1972. In the light of Chinese inexperience, their limited technical and scientific base, and considering general political and economic conditions in China, more time will probably be required. Thus, an IOC is more likely to be achieved later than 1972, perhaps as much as 2 or 3 years later. Even assuming an IOC in late 1972, it is doubtful that the Chinese could achieve a force of more than 10-25 operational ICBM's on launchers by 1975."

BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

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